

# Tumbler Ridge Secondary School



## Code of Conduct

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Tumbler Ridge Secondary School  
180 Southgate  
Tumbler Ridge, BC  
V0C2W0  
250-242-4227

Principal: Stacie Deeley  
Vice-Principal: Matthew Fox



*It is our mission to develop skills, nurture personal growth, and encourage lifelong learning in a supportive and respectful environment.*

## Tumbler Ridge Secondary School Student Code of Conduct

### Statement of Purpose

One of the goals of our school for students to grow to be respectful, responsible, educated citizens. Tumbler Ridge Secondary School promotes and upholds the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age. Discipline at TRSS is meant to redirect students toward ethical decision making and productive citizenship, as well as to confront students on inappropriate behaviour.

### We believe that all students can learn to:

- be independent
- confront and overcome problems
- be decision makers
- access, analyze, and apply information
- use technology to facilitate learning
- be active and responsible participants in learning
- use every day experiences to achieve their full potential
- be dynamic contributors to society

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students shall treat everyone with dignity, respect, and equality. Students deserve to be provided with a learning environment that is free from physical, emotional, and social abuse.

- The three **R**'s should guide student behaviour: **R**eady to learn, **R**espect for yourself and others, and **R**esponsibility for your learning and actions.
- Students contribute to a climate of mutual trust and respect for effective learning, personal development, and social living.

## Acceptable Conduct

Students and staff should be able to attend school in an environment where they feel comfortable, safe, free from threats, respected, and cared for socially, intellectually, physically, and emotionally.

To maintain a respectful environment, students:

- demonstrate courtesy and respect when dealing with peers, teachers, support staff, and school property.
- respect and cooperate with each other to develop a strong working relationship that maximizes learning in the school.
- do their utmost to preserve a clean, safe, and productive environment in and around the school.
- come to class with the proper materials.
- learn to be active learners and participate in all learning activities.
- attend school regularly and punctually.
- meet the expectations for student behavior while on the school property or involved in school sponsored or related activities (including field trips).
- inform teachers or administration if there is a violation of the code of conduct. The school assures that any concerns will be taken seriously and will remain confidential.

## Unacceptable Conduct

Any behaviour that jeopardizes student and/or staff safety or interferes with student learning will not be tolerated at Tumbler Ridge Secondary.

Smoking, vaping, profanity, possession, or use of illegal drugs (this includes paraphernalia), alcohol use, cannabis use, willful disobedience or opposition to authority, vandalism, theft, bullying or violence toward others, possession of a weapon, and verbal harassment are all behaviors that are inappropriate within the school setting.

## High Expectations

As students get older and more mature, there is an expectation that their behaviour will reflect their growth. We therefore hold higher expectations for our older students, who may be subject to more progressive consequences if there is a violation of the code of conduct.

## Consequences

Disciplinary action is meant first and foremost to be preventative and restorative rather than punitive. However, consequences for students' behaviour will be consistent and fair. Consideration will be given to students who are unable to comply with expectations. It is important for students to remember that "fair" does not mean "equal". Consequences will be fair because they will be distributed in relation to the nature, frequency, and intent of the student's behaviour.

Students who have been suspended for misconduct may not attend extra-curricular activities in the same week as the suspension (including field trips, sports events etc.)

### Swearing/Profanity

Swearing is not acceptable for a school or workplace environment. When directed toward another person, swearing falls under the bullying and harassment policy (see below). TRSS therefore has a zero-tolerance stance with regards to students swearing or using vulgar language while in the school setting.

### Bullying and Harassment

Assault and bullying or harassment in any form will not be tolerated at TRSS. Students will not discriminate against others based on appearance, capacity, disability, colour, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation gender identity or expression, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia. Students will not make gestures, publish, or display anything, that would indicate an intention to discriminate against an individual or a group, or expose them to contempt or ridicule.

Assault: a harmful physical, verbal, or non-verbal attack, slur, or demeaning gesture directed against another individual or property.

Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, disability; inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces (including presentation slides); deliberate intimidation, stalking or following; harassing photography or recording; sustained disruption of talks or other events; inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention.

Bullying (including cyber-bullying) is serious behavior that has three key features – all three must be present for the situation to be considered bullying:

1. **Power imbalance** -- One party clearly has power over the other(s), which may be due to age, size, social status, and so on.
2. **Intention to harm** -- The purpose of the bullying behaviour is to harm or hurt other(s) – it is intended to be mean and is clearly not accidental.
3. **Repeated over time** -- bullying behaviour continues over time and gets worse with repetition. There is a real or implied threat that the behaviour will not stop, and in fact will become even more serious.

Often by the time adults find out about what is happening, the child has tried many ways to stop the bullying but cannot do so on their own. Bullying behaviour will therefore be addressed swiftly as it is made know to the school Principal and/or Vice Principal.

Consequence Options: alternative justice, parent contact, suspension, removal from the regular school setting, police. The “conflict resolution” style of bringing the children together will not be used in bullying situations until considerable time has gone by and all children are feeling safe enough to talk about what happened so that relationships can be healed.

## Peer Conflict

Conflict between and among peers is a natural part of growing up and is different from bullying. Teenagers will have times when they disagree sharply with their peers and struggle to solve their own problems. They may even become so frustrated that they say mean things or act out physically.

If it's peer conflict you will be aware that these teenagers:

- usually choose to hang out together.
- have relatively equal power (similar age, size, social status, etc.).
- are equally upset.
- are both interested in the outcome; and
- will be able to work things out with adult help (after calming down).

Consequence Options: "Conflict resolution" approaches will be used for most students who find themselves in peer conflict. If the conflict turns into a physical altercation, the policy on fighting will be enforced before conflict resolution can begin.

## Mean Behaviour

Teenagers may try out behaviours to assert themselves – sometimes saying or doing mean things – such as making fun of others, using hurtful names, taking something without permission, or excluding people. Despite the hurtful nature of mean behaviour, it is not usually bullying.

If it is mean behavior, usually:

- it is not planned and seems to happen spontaneously or by chance.
- it may be aimed at any child nearby.
- the child being mean may feel badly when talked to about the harm they've caused.

Consequence Options: coaching conversation, parent phone call, alternate break locations. These consequences will happen quickly, firmly, and respectfully to stop the behaviour, to let students know that their actions are hurtful and to re-direct them to more positive behaviour.

## Personal Electronic Devices

Personal electronic devices include any device in possession of a student, including (but not limited to) phones, music players, cameras, and tablets.

Unless it is defined in an education plan, **personal electronic devices must not be used during class (as defined by the bell schedule), regardless of the student's location inside the school.**

Students are able to use their personal digital devices when they are needed as an essential support for their medical support plan and needs (i.e. diabetes, medication, etc.).

Students are permitted to use cell phones and other personal electronics during breaks but are strictly always forbidden from taking recordings or pictures which invade the privacy of others. This includes spreading videos, audio or pictures of staff or students with any type of social media (including but not limited to texts, social media websites or apps etc.). **Students may never take video or recordings of staff at TRSS.**

**Repeated violations of the personal device policy may result in further restrictions, as outlined by administration. This may include the inability to have personal devices for the entire school day, including breaks.**

### **Breaks**

All students will follow the scheduled break times. Students may not leave class, the school building or school premises for an unscheduled break during class time. Students may leave class with permission from the teacher for bathroom breaks (or other breaks as defined by an individual education plan.)

### **Alcohol**

Alcohol use is **illegal** for all students and is taken seriously at TRSS. If there is sufficient evidence that a student, while under school supervision, is (directly or indirectly) involved with the use of alcohol, the consequences include a **minimum three-day** suspension. The suspension will be reported to the Board of School Trustees.

### **Drugs**

If there is sufficient evidence that a student, while under school supervision, is (directly or indirectly) involved with the use of illegal drugs, the consequences include a **minimum three-day** suspension. The suspension will be reported to the Board of School Trustees.

### **Prescriptions & Over the Counter Medications**

Prescription medication is for personal use only, and for a timeframe determined by your doctor. If a student is found to be **distributing** prescription or over the counter medications, the medications will be **confiscated**, to be picked up by a parent/guardian at the end of the day. Further discipline may include suspension (depending on the nature, severity, and intent of the incident).

## Cannabis

The use of cannabis and cannabis related products is **illegal for all students**. Regardless of age, students attending TRSS are prohibited from entering the school premises while under the influence of, or in possession of any Cannabis or related products. Cannabis and/or related products found within the school premises will be **confiscated**. Students will also face the following suspensions and all suspensions will be reported to the Board of School Trustees.

### First offense:

The student will face an out of school suspension for a **minimum of 3 days**.

### Second offense:

The student will receive an out of school suspension for **3-5 days. Students will be encouraged to contact a drug and alcohol counselor.**

### Third offense:

The student will receive an out of school suspension for **5 days and must meet with administration before returning to classes with parents/guardians**. A behaviour plan and or other expectations and restrictions may be put in place. There is also a possibility of a change in educational plan, which could include distance learning.

## Vaping and Smoking

Vaping and Smoking are prohibited on school property. Vaping and Smoking are also illegal for anyone under the age of 19. Nicotine is a highly addictive substance and should not be consumed by minors. Vaporizers (Vapes), Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigs) and JUULs have been connected to the sudden onset of serious lung conditions in teens. Cigarettes, vaporizers and any related products (including nicotine pouches) will therefore be **confiscated** if found within the school premises and students may receive further consequences, including suspension. A **minimum 3-day suspension** will result if a student is found to be smoking or vaping on school property. The suspension will be reported to the Board of School Trustees.

## Fighting

Fighting includes pushing, shoving, punching and other 'hands-on' behaviours that carry the potential for serious injury or harm. Fighting creates a complete disruption to the school and learning environment, is not appropriate for the school setting and carries a **minimum 3-day suspension** to all parties involved. This includes fights that occur off school grounds, during the school day.

Students who record student fights on their phones and distributed on social media will receive a **minimum 3-day suspension**.

## Sign Out Procedures

**Any student who leaves the building during school hours for any reason must sign out at the office.** Permission to sign out must be granted by a parent or legal guardian

through a signed note, email, text to the school phone or a phone call. Students who do not sign out and still leave the building will be considered skipping class and will be subject to disciplinary action.

### Distributed Learning (DL)

Students taking Distributed Learning courses may complete their course work at school in the school library or from home. Students taking Distributed Learning courses are assigned a support block in the library at the commencement of their course. A sign-out permission form will go home at the beginning of the school year for all students taking Distributed learning courses. Parents wishing to allow their child to sign out during their Distributed learning support block can sign the form and send it back to TRSS. Students who choose to sign up for DL courses, are responsible for making sure their work is completed before the course ends.

### Student Phone Calls

Students have access to an office phone to make phone calls to parents and guardians before school, during breaks, at lunch or after school. Personal phone calls will not be permitted during classes (as defined by the bell schedule). If a student emergency occurs during class time, the office phone is available for student use. *Parent/guardian messages for students will be relayed at the next class break, unless it is an emergency.* Students are permitted to text and take phone calls on their personal devices during lunch and break times.

### Library Use

Students must follow library sign-in procedures before being allowed into the Library. Students who are loud, off-task, or who are otherwise not engaging in their educational purpose for being in the library may be asked to leave the library for the duration of the class. A progressive discipline approach may be used for continued behaviour issues in the library.

### Appropriate Dress for School

The TRSS dress code reflects the commitment of the school to provide a learning environment that is safe, supportive, responsible, respectful, and positive for staff, students, members of the community and visitors. A **dress code** establishes a balance between self-expression and the expectation of society for appropriate dress in a shared workplace and learning environment.

Dress that is inappropriate for the shared workplace and learning environment at TRSS includes immodest clothing or vulgarity as determined by the discretion of the Administration. Student dress should be appropriate for the school setting at all times and follow the following guidelines:

1. Clothing, hats, jewelry, and accessories should have no reference to drugs, alcohol, racism, profanity, violence, discrimination or sexualization.



2. Clothing must provide appropriate coverage and be worn appropriately. It cannot be overly revealing:
  - Shorts, pants, and skirts must be an appropriate length and fully cover the top and bottom of the buttocks at all times.
  - Underwear should be under clothes and not visible (with the exception of shoulder straps).
  - Tops must cover the majority of your upper body
3. For safety reasons, footwear must be worn in all areas of the school at all times. **Outdoor footwear must be removed before going into the gym.**
4. Hats may be worn at school. Students may be asked to remove hats during assemblies. Individual teachers may ask for hats to be removed during class time.
5. Some classes may have specific guidelines for appropriate clothing and or footwear for safety. Students must abide by these rules or may lose the privilege of participating in class.

A student who violates the dress code will be asked to change into appropriate clothing before returning to class. Failure to comply to the request or persistent violations of the dress code may result in progressive consequences.

### **TRSS Absenteeism/Late Policy**

It is expected that all students will attend and be on time for classes. All absences from classes potentially affect the student's capacity to achieve academic success in individual classes. If a student cannot attend, parents/guardians please phone the school to inform the secretarial staff of the absence and the reason for it.

When a student is absent first thing in the morning, or first thing in the afternoon, and the parent has not informed the school, the secretary will attempt to contact the parent/guardian by phone to determine the reason for the absence.

Teachers implement classroom expectations with regards to students arriving late or students who have unexcused absences from class. These expectations will be outlined by the teacher at the beginning of the school year or course.

The following school-wide consequences will apply for students who choose to skip classes. They also apply to students who have missed excessive instructional time due to coming late to class for reasons that are unexcused.

### **Unexcused Absences/Lates**

1. **Students with excessive lates/absences may be required to meet with administration to discuss a plan for next steps.**

2. **If attendance does not improve**, overall attendance information, and any other relevant information will be used during a formal school-based team **meeting** between the **student, school administrator, Learning assistant teacher, school counsellor** and **classroom teacher** to assess the student's capacity to successfully complete the individual course.
  - An individual plan will be created with the student and parents/guardians outlining specific next steps for the student.
    - **NEXT STEPS** may include:
      - A schedule review and potential removal from the individual class (gr. 10-12).
      - Referral to learning assistance or counselling services
3. Continual, non-improving patterns of attendance problems may require a referral to the Ministry of Children & Family Department under BC's duty to report protocol.
4. Students who have an **unexcused absence** for an evaluation (such as a test or presentation) may not be given another opportunity to complete the evaluation until a parent meeting is held to determine the reason for the absence.
5. If a student has an **absence or late** for any part of a day, they may not attend special events, outside of school time, held on that day without administrative approval (e.g., school dances) and may not participate in sports team's practices and games.
6. If a student has an unexcused **absence or late** for any part of a day, they may not attend extra-curricular events held on that day/weekend. Students with legitimate reasons (i.e. a medical appt.), may attend with administration approval.
7. If a student is absent or late more than 20 times, they may not attend school dances, extra-curricular trips, or other activities of the like until attendance shows improvement and has the approval of administration.

### **Bicycles/Scooters/Skateboards**

Students are asked to park their bicycles in the bike rack located north of the school parking lot. Students are also reminded that they **must wear a helmet** while riding their bicycle. Students are encouraged to use a bike lock. Use of the bike rack or parking anywhere on school property is at the **student's own risk**.

Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are not to be used during class time (for example, when students are outside for a lesson and or going on a field trip).

### **Graduation Ceremony**

Each year, the academic standing cut off for inclusion in the TRSS school Graduation

ceremony will be the Monday before the Ceremony. The dates are not specific in this handbook as they change each year but will be reflected in the school's yearly calendar.

To be included in the graduation ceremony, Grads must demonstrate the following on or before the cut-off date.

1. Maintaining a grade of 50% or better in all core courses
  - a. Core courses are any course that a student requires for their graduation and may include electives. The determination of whether a course is considered "core" to the student's graduation is determined by the student's graduation path.
2. Meet the DL completion criteria by the DL cut-off date for core courses with a minimum grade of 50% or better. The DL cut-off date may change from year to year and will be communicated to students and parents.



## Progressive Discipline (Subject to Discretion)

Step 1- Teacher addresses behaviour with student



Step 2- Communication with parent



Step 3- Administration



At the discretion of the Administration, this could result in suspension.

In school suspensions: Students work in an alternate location within the building of TRSS.

Out of school suspensions: students are not allowed on school property and must stay home for the duration of suspensions. They are required to make up the work missed due to a suspension.

Note: depending on the circumstance, students who have been given an out of school suspension may need to meet with administration and parents/guardians before reentry to TRSS.

Step 4- Meeting with Administration and Parents



Step 5- School Based Team, Inclusion of Outside Agency, Possible Change in Educational Program

